

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15 and 17 are now pending, as Applicants hereby rewrite independent claim 1 to include the features of allowable dependent claim 2 and cancel claims 4, 6 and 16.

As independent claim 1 now includes the features of allowable claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding prior art rejections of claim 1 is now moot.

Further, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the outstanding indefiniteness rejection of claim 3 in view of the clarifying amendments herein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15 and 17 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15 and 17.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

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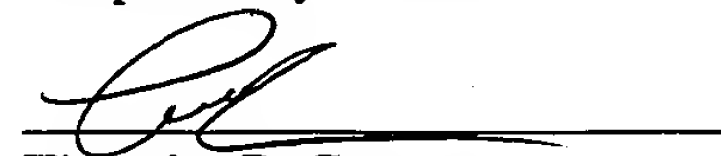
WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Cremen  
Registration No. 50,855